

“WV third-graders beat expectations the most with a **46 percent proficiency** rate in English/language arts, eight percentage points higher than the field test predicted, and a **44 percent proficiency** rate in math, which is 5 percentage points higher than the field test projected”. *

FACT

There is no real definition of “proficiency” for this test yet and so to read anything into these scores is meaningless. There is also a large question about how the so-called “expectations” were calculated... at least part of which resulted from a field test that was given to 4 million students nationwide (and in which only 16,000 WV students participated) ... is that a valid way to evaluate WV student performance?

“State school officials touted the third-graders’ performance, noting that, while the Common Core-based standards were only implemented statewide in all grades last school year, the third-graders had been on them the longest — since kindergarten.” ... “That’s why we’re pleased to see, on both English/language arts and math, that those students are outperforming”**

FACT

These are the test scores for 3rd graders in reading and math for the last six years (including the score for this SBAC test):

Math - 45% 41% 49% 42% 37% 44%

Reading - 45% 46% 50% 44% 43% 46%

To claim that Common Core is somehow increasing achievement isn’t a genuine statement. If anything, this test confirms that nothing has changed ... to be clear, FOUR years of Common Core still results in LESS THAN ½ of 3rd graders at proficiency level.

This year’s test can be used as a **baseline** for future years.**

FACT

The SBAC test given to students in WV last year has not been validated, meaning that it has not been evaluated, as required, by an outside agency to determine whether it meets appropriate guidelines for student testing. SBAC documents state that the test should not be used alone to determine what a student knows and can do. Once the test has been validated, it is possible for the “expectations” or proficiency level to change - -- it is a moving target.

In order to accommodate this, it appears that the expectation has been set so low so as to ensure that it can be exceeded later. Thus, no score will ever be able to be trusted as a real proficiency rate.

NOTE: WVCCC is not against all Standards, we are advocating for time-tested, proven standards which maintain parental involvement, authority of local teachers, and school boards and which protect privacy. We are committed to the success of students rather than pandering to special interests who have been advocating for national control of education at the expense of children.

Regarding the SBAC, we advocate for WV to remove themselves from this consortia and develop standards created by WV teachers for WV children, with legitimate testing that provide real achievement information.